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HIS HIGHNESS' GOVERNMENT, JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

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A HAND BOOK

OF

JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE.

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CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL & POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

101 131 **Area.**—The total area of Jammu and Kashmir State is 84,471 square miles. It lies between 32°-17′ and 36°-58′ North Latitude and 73°-26′ and 80°-30′ East Longitude and is the largest State in India. It is larger than Hyderabad, about as large as Mysore, Bikaner, Gwalior and Baroda put together, and two-thirds the size of the whole of the Bombay Presidency.

Boundaries.—On the north it is bounded by Chinese and Russian Turkistan, on the east by Chinese Tibet, on the south by the Punjab and on the west by the North-Western Frontier Province. The territories of three powers, *viz.*, Britain, China and Russia, and of the independent kingdom of Afghanistan meet on the northern borders of the State.

133 **Physical features.**—In addition to a small strip of land along the borders of Jammu, which is a continuation of the great plain of the Punjab, and a bleak tract adjoining the Karakorum Mountains, the territories of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Jammu and Kashmir include valleys formed by the Chenab and the Jhelum and the middle reaches of the Indus.

Geographical divisions.—The generally accepted geographical divisions of the territories are as follows:—

1. The Sub-montane and Semi-mountainous Tract, consisting of the plain contiguous to the Punjab and broken *kandi* country skirting the Himalayan ranges. The rivers Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum and several perennial streams flow through the southern plain area, which borders [241] upon several Punjab districts. Rice, wheat, maize and other crops are grown in this area. Canals drawn from the big rivers and small village streams are the main sources of irrigation. The northern portion of the region called

133 *kandi* has an altitude of 2,000 feet or less. Its soil [240] is stony and sandy and cultivation depends mainly [162] on seasonal rainfall. The area of this division is 2,609 square miles. The population at the census of 1941 was 8,14,028.

2. The Outer Hills, consisting of the comparatively low hills to the south of the mountain ranges. This division comprises the whole area covered by the ranges of low hills to the south of the Pir Panjal mountains, which divide the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir, one from the other. The altitude of the greater part of this belt varies from 2,000 to 4,000 feet, though the hills in Bhadarwah reach heights of over 5,000 feet. On the lower levels, and stretched between the hills are patches of cultivated lands or stunted forests. The higher elevations [241] are covered with pine and *deodar* forests. The cultivation is greatly helped by the proximity of the Pir Panjal mountains, whose tremendous altitude causes the moisture-bearing winds to deposit most of their aqueous vapours in this part of the country. Rice and wheat are grown in some parts, while maize is the staple food. The area of [163] this division is 9,769 square miles; the population at the census of 1941 was 11,67,405.

3. The Jhelum Valley, consisting of the valleys that drain into the Jhelum and the Kishanganga rivers. The mountains enclosing this tract have an average altitude of 12,000 feet. Many of the peaks exceed 14,000 feet. Water for irrigation is supplied by the perennial streams which have their sources in the surrounding snow-clad mountains. The Jhelum valley situated at over 5,000 feet above the sea level, and the beautiful lateral valleys of the Sindh, and the Liddar (the three together forming the famous Kashmir Valley) and the hilly tract of Muzaf- [242] farabad are included in this division. The Kashmir valley is fertile and yields abundant harvests of rice. Fruits of various kinds are produced. Wheat and maize are grown. In Muzaffarabad district, agriculture is precarious and the cultivated area is small. The area [164] of the division is 8,539 square miles; the population at the census of 1941 was 17,28,705.

4. The Tibetan and Semi-Tibetan Tract, consisting of the middle reaches of the Indus. The river has its source in Lake Manasarovar in Tibet and traverses the whole of the division running from south-east up to the

133 bend round Nanga Parbat, where it assumes a south-westerly course. The mountains in the north stretch up to the Pamirs, and reach great heights ; one of the peaks, Mt. Godwin Austin 28,250 feet above the sea level, is [134] the second highest peak in the world. The Himalayan ranges north and south of the Indus have been described as the " Sportsman's Paradise ", where ibex, *markhor*, and ovis ammon, besides other big game, are met with. A number of mountaineering expeditions have been to these regions for exploration. Except in Gilgit, the ranges in this division vary from 17,000 feet to 22,000 [141] feet. The cultivable area in the Ladakh district is very small and the rainfall deficient, and agriculture is carried on by artificial irrigation. *Grim* (a kind of wheat) is the chief crop and is grown even at a height of 15,000 feet. The small tract of Gilgit enjoys good climate and cultivation, and produces wheat and other crops and fruits. The [162] area of the whole division is 63,554 square miles. The population is very sparse—the density at the census of 1941 was 5 persons to a square mile and the total population 3,11,478.

The first two of these divisions form the province of Jammu, the third is Kashmir proper, while the fourth comprises the district of Gilgit and the Frontier *illaqas* of Skardu, Ladakh, and Kargil.

132 **Climate.**—The climatic conditions of the country vary from the arctic cold of the Ladakh district to the extreme heat of the Punjab plains.

In the sub-montane and semi-mountainous tract of Jammu Province, tropical heat is experienced. Kashmir enjoys a temperate climate in summer, but is very cold in winter. In the Frontier district, especially in Dras, Zanskar and Rupshu, there prevails extreme cold. The deep narrow valleys between Kashmir and Gilgit are hot and damp. Kishtwar and Bhadarwah have a more salubrious climate.

Rainfall is scanty in the Frontier *illaqas* and the Gilgit district, but in the rest of the State it varies from 30 to 65 inches a year. Reasi and Poonch receive more than 60 inches each annually. The annual rainfall of the Jammu district is nearly 45 inches and that of Kashmir Valley varies from 30 to 35 inches.

Places of interest.—(A) The following are some of the

361 Places of interest.—(A) The 4 following are some of the chief places of interest for tourists in Kashmir :—

(1) SRINAGAR.

Srinagar, the summer capital of the State, extends over an area of about 4 miles in length by about 2 miles in width. The river Jhelum winds its way through the thick-
[491] ly populated city situated on its banks. The river in the city is spanned at intervals by several bridges built by different rulers of Kashmir between the 15th and the 18th centuries. Some of these bridges have very recently been reconstructed. Going down the river in a ***shikara*** (a small boat), one comes across many picturesque sites, including old mosques and temples as well as numerous shops of woodcarvers, silver-smiths, papier mache manufacturers and dealers in the arts and craftsmanship for which Kashmir is famous. The main streets are all metalled and afford facilities for wheeled traffic through the city. An excellent and abundant supply of pure water is provided for the city by a network of pipes fed from a reservoir at Harwan, twelve miles away in the mountains. Just above the 7th bridge in the city is situated the Bonded Warehouse of Central Asian traders. Below the bridge has been constructed a weir or barrage to maintain the level of water in the river during the winter season. Higher up above the first bridge are situated the Civil Lines or residential sections with well-built bungalows and nicely laid out gardens. Nedou's Hotel is centrally situated in the Civil Lines. With the growth of tourist traffic in recent years, several new hotels have sprung up, particularly on the Boulevard which fringes a part of Lake Dal.

[162] The population of Srinagar according to the census
[484] of 1941 is about 2,08,000. It should, however, be remembered that during the six months of summer when visitors flock to Kashmir, the population of Srinagar rises by many thousands.

The Srinagar Club is the centre of amusements, and recreation for European visitors and permanent residents. It has six excellent tennis courts as well as a good 18-hole golf course laid out near Nedou's Hotel. Tennis tournaments and many golf competitions are held every year by the Club. The Amar Singh Club consists mostly of Government officers, but it also takes a limited number of visitors as temporary members every season. There are

three Cinema Halls, one of which caters chiefly for Europeans and educated Indians. 361

(2) MUGHAL GARDENS.

Chashma Shahi.—About five miles from the Srinagar Civil Lines on the hill-side above Lake Dal is situated the well-known spring, ***Chashma Shahi*** or the "Royal Spring." It is famous for its pure, transparent and cold water. The spring is enclosed by a small garden in which the fountains play, fed from the same spring. The garden was laid out by Shah Jahan in 1632. It commands a beautiful view of Lake Dal and its environments. 367

Nishat.—Two and a half miles beyond ***Chashma Shahi*** and right on the edge of Lake Dal lies the famous ***Nishat Bagh*** or the "Pleasure Garden" which was laid out in the time of Shah Jahan. It is arranged in twelve terraces and its cascades and fountains, flowerbeds and lawns, cypress and ***chinar*** trees, heighten the beauty of the prospect presented by the panorama of the lake against the background of imposing and magnificent mountains.

Shalamar.—This garden lies about two miles beyond ***Nishat Bagh*** on the way to Harwan. It was built by Jahangir for his beloved Nur Jahan, with whom he passed several summers here. The garden has many majestic ***chinar*** trees and is ornamented with terraces and fountains. On one of the terraces is built a magnificent pavilion of black polished stone closely resembling marble.

Nasim.—This is a fine green plain on the bank of Lake Dal shaded by a wonderful grove of ***chinars***. It is an ideal camping ground situated at a distance of 6 miles from Srinagar. Four tennis courts have been constructed, in the garden recently. Bathing may be enjoyed in ideal surroundings in ***Nagin Bagh*** which is close by. Sailing boats, bathing boats and motor boats for aqua-planning are available on hire for visitors.

Achhabal.—This garden is situated at a distance of 40 miles from Srinagar, from where it can be reached by car in less than two hours. The water which is cold and refreshing gushes out of the foot of the hill, which skirts the garden on the southern side. The garden with

367 its beautiful cascades and fountains was laid out by Jahangir. There is a Trout Hatchery at Achhabal, which is fed by the water of the spring. Outside the garden, there is a small beautiful ground shaded with *chinar* trees. There is also a rest-house, with catering arrangements, situated quite close to the ground.

Vernag.—Another Mughal garden is at Vernag below the beautiful spring there. The place is fifty miles from Srinagar and 6,100 feet above the sea level. It is situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal and has a large spring in an octagonal basin and an arcade built by Jahangir. The [133] limpid water flowing from the spring is one of the principal sources of the river Jhelum.

(3) HILL STATIONS.

361 **Pahalgam.**—This hill station is situated at a distance
485 of 59 miles from Srinagar at an altitude of about 7,000
133 feet above the sea level, in the heart of the finest side
[491] valley of Kashmir, the Liddar Valley. The road to Pahalgam from Srinagar is suitable for motor and lorry traffic during the spring, summer and autumn months. It attracts an increasing number of visitors every summer. It has hotels, post and telegraph offices, a Tehsil office, a dispensary, a police station and a conservancy staff. It is an important stage in the pilgrimage to the sacred cave of Sri Amarnath, which is 27 miles away. The great Kolahoi glacier, another attraction for visitors, is about 22 miles from Pahalgam.

Kokarnag.—Kokarnag which is at a distance of 50 miles from Srinagar and 10 miles from Achhabal has a group of springs from which ice-cold water flows. The camping ground is close to the springs. A cafe has recently been opened there.

Gulmarg.—This far-famed holiday resort is about twenty-eight miles from Srinagar, and 8,700 feet above the sea level. It provides many amenities for visitors. It has a high class hotel, post and telegraph offices, a dispensary, a police station and a Tehsil office. The hill station is placed under a Town Area Committee. A magnificent panorama is unfolded to the view from the circular road, 7 miles long, which commands a view of the Nanga Parbat ranges and the whole of Kashmir Valley. Khilanmarg, which is a favourite place for excursions

from Gulmarg, affords a glorious view of Kashmir Valley and its surrounding mountain ranges including Nanga Parbat. It is 1,600 feet higher than Gulmarg and can be reached by a rough pony track through forest area. Towering over Khilanmarg is Affarwat, 14,000 feet above the sea level. It has a picturesque blue lake. One can ride to Khilanmarg and thence climb Affarwat on foot. Gulmarg has been developed as a modern hill station and continues to attract visitors, mostly Europeans, in increasing numbers, in the summer. It also attracts ski-ing enthusiasts in December, January and March each winter, when meetings are arranged by the Ski Club of India. 361 485 133-

Toshmaidan.—This can be reached by three marches from Gulmarg, and is one of the most beautiful *margs* (literally meadows or pasture lands) of Kashmir. The path is steep, but fit for ponies.

Ganderbal.—This is a small village on the banks of the Sindh river at a distance of 13 miles from Srinagar, and 5,220 feet above the sea level. Visitors generally stay in boats moored along the river. By road it is half an hour's drive from Srinagar. As in Pahalgam and Gulmarg, there are here post and telegraph offices, the Government dispensary and a police station. The Sindh river and its tributaries in Ganderbal supply fish in abundance. Ganderbal is the starting point of excursions to famous places like Sonamarg, Baltal, Zojila mountain, Lake Gangabal and the Harmukh mountains.

Sonamarg.—This glacier valley is at a distance of 51 miles from Srinagar, and is 8,750 feet above the sea level. It presents one of the finest pieces of scenery in Kashmir and is noted for its bracing climate. A portion of the road to Sonamarg is metalled and the remaining is a fair-weather motor road. Large camping grounds are available in the valley. The famous Sri Amarnath cave and the Kolahoi glacier in the Liddar valley are accessible from this place also. Snow trout are available in the river at Sonamarg. [491]

Gangabal.—This glen is about 11,720 feet above the sea level and contains an attractive lake. On one side of the lake rises the towering peak of Harmukh (16,900 feet). It is a place of pilgrimage for Hindus. [788]

(4) Lakes.

133 **Dal.**—This beautiful lake is over 3¾ miles by over 2½ miles in size. The background is provided by mountain ranges which rise 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the level of the lake. The water is fresh and abundantly supplied [367] with fish, wild duck and water-fowl. One of the main features of this lake is the famous floating gardens. The lake is a favourite place for the mooring of house-boats. One of the corners of the lake is Gagribal, noted for its very clear water. It is an ideal place for bathing. Registered bathing boats, sailing boats and motor boats for aqua-planning are available on hire at the Gagribal point.

Anchar.—This is 5 miles long and 2 miles wide, and extends towards Ganderbal. It is a good place for duck and snipe-shooting in winter months. Lotuses and lilies are to be seen here in profusion in the month of August.

Wular.—This is the largest fresh water lake in India, and is 12½ miles long and 5 miles wide. The lake can be reached from Srinagar by river as well as motor road.

Manasbal.—This lake, about 16 miles from Srinagar, is accessible both by road and river, and is considered to be the loveliest of the Kashmir lakes. About 2 miles in diameter, it is surrounded by majestic hills, and its water is blue and clear. The ruins of a fine Mughal garden are situated on one of its banks.

Kaunsarnag.—This is the largest mountain lake in Kashmir. It is situated on the Pir Panjal range, about 13,000 feet above the sea level and is over 2 miles long. It is surrounded by some of the most picturesque of the Himalayan peaks. Three of these peaks, each about 15,500 feet high, tower over this lake which usually remains frozen till the month of June.

Shishnag.—This is a mountain tarn situated at an altitude of 12,000 feet on the pilgrim road to the Sri Amarnath cave.

(5) Ancient Monuments.

172 **Pari Mahal (Palace of fairies).**—A massive building, now in ruins, standing on the side of the mountain to the south of Lake Dal: it is said to have been erected in the time of the Mughal emperors for astronomical

observations. It has a garden attached to it with 6 terraces. 172
The retaining wall is ornamented with a series of arches. It has a domed ceiling.

Pandrethan.—The temple of Pandrethan is situated about 4 miles away from Srinagar. The pond in which it was erected has been drained and the plinth excavated. The domed roof is a fine piece of sculpture. The temple is about 18 feet square with projecting porticos. It was erected by King Partha in A. D. 921.

Harwan.—Recent excavations have revealed one of the oldest monuments at Harwan, containing the only remains of its kind in India. A temple and some tablets have been unearthed, which date the monument as belonging to the Kushan period, when Kashmir was closely connected with Central Asia. The remains are situated only a few furlongs below the water reservoir at Harwan.

Avantipura.—It is situated on the right bank of the Jhelum at a distance of 18 miles from Srinagar. It was the capital of the famous king, Avanti Varman, who built here two temples of Avanti Swamin and Avanti Sura, one before his accession to the throne and the other subsequently. These temples were dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva. The gateways of both are standing and the conspicuous ruins attract the attention of all visitors to Kashmir, as revealing the old art of carving.

Martand.—The celebrated temple of Martand possesses far more imposing dimensions than any other existing temple. The total length of the temple is 63 feet. The walls are still standing, though the roof has been totally ruined. The pillared quadrangle round the temple is 220 feet by 142 feet. The stones are very finely carved.

Pattan.—This place is situated at a distance of 17 miles from Srinagar. The ruins of two temples are found here. These were erected by Sankaravarman and his queen, Sugandha.

(B) Among the chief places of interest in Jammu Province mention may be made of the following :—

Kishtwar.—This is one of the best places for 485
trekking, and big game is found here abundantly. Forest 361
rest-houses and tourists' huts have been constructed at several places for housing facilities of tourists and sportsmen.

Bhadarwah.—It is a small beautiful town, surrounded by hills on all sides, with an altitude of 5,540 feet above

485 the sea level. It is situated at a distance of 42 miles
361 from Batote on the Banihal Cart Road, and a fair-weather motor road from this place to Bhadarwah has been constructed recently. The climate of the place is very cool.

Batote.—This is a hill station on the Banihal Cart Road at an altitude of 5,116 feet above the sea level, and at a distance of 78 miles from Jammu. It has a natural sanatorium surrounded by pine trees.

Kud.—This hill station with an altitude of over 5,700 feet above the sea level is situated on the Banihal Cart Road, at a distance of 66 miles from Jammu. It commands picturesque scenery. During summer months, it is an ideal hill station for the people of Jammu Province and the neighbouring areas in the Punjab.

Sanasar.—Sanasar is a beautiful valley at the top of Batote Range and is a good health resort. A fair-weather motorable road has recently been constructed from Patni top to provide easy access to this place.

788 Besides, there are a number of places of pilgrimage
491 both in Jammu and Kashmir, which attract a large number of people. Sri Amarnath cave in Kashmir situated at an altitude of 12,729 feet above the sea level, is an all-India Hindu shrine and attracts pilgrims from places far and near every year. The road from Srinagar to Pahalgam, about 60 miles, is metalled, and thence there is a ponyi road of about 27 miles to this cave. Sri Vaishno Deva in Reasi Tehsil in Jammu Province similarly attracts large number of pilgrims every year. The road is open to motor and lorry traffic as far as Katra, and from that place, the cave can be approached by ponies or mules. Hazratbal, at a distance of about 5 miles from Srinagar, has a shrine of Muslims associated with the holy Prophet. The shrine is approached both by a metalled road and Lake Dal and attracts many Muslim visitors.

000 The Jammu and Kashmir State provides a vast field for men of different tastes and interests. The holiday-maker finds in Kashmir the chief garden of Asia, with scenery hardly surpassed anywhere else in the world. For the lover of sport a wide range of game is available. The botanist and the zoologist have here a great wealth of flora and fauna. The lovely glens and the shaded mountain spurs in their picturesque settings provide an inexhaustable theme to the genius of the poet and a background for the contemplation of the philosopher. For the

linguist, the State has a variety of dialects belonging to different branches of the human family. For the geologist, it offers an interesting study of soils and rocks with chronological data unobtainable elsewhere in India. For the archaeologist, there are numerous monuments of different ages and traces of cultural influences showing the interplay of civilizations. The scholar has an extensive field for research in systems of philosophy peculiar to Kashmir. The explorer has mysterious lands on the boundaries and the lofty mountains to merit his attention.

Census.—(A) Population.—The total population of the State according to the census of 1941 was 40,21,616. The distribution according to religions is shown below:—

Muslims	31,01,247
Hindus	8,09,165
Sikhs	65,903
Buddhists	40,696
Others	4,605
Total ..	40,21,616

Muslims form 77·11 per cent. of the total population.

(B) Variation in population.—The increase of population during the decade 1931-41 was 10.3 per cent. against 9.8 per cent. of the previous decade.

(C) Density.—The density of population per square mile in 1941 was 48 against 43 in 1931. Excluding the Indus Valley which occupies 63,554 square miles and is very sparsely populated, the density per square mile was over 177.

(D) Rural and urban population.—At the census of 1941, there were 39 towns and 8,740 villages in the State. The number of persons living in the urban areas was 4,14,435 and of those living in rural areas 36,07,181. The number of occupied houses was 7,64,424, of which 67,983 were in the towns and 6,96,441 in the villages.

(E) Civil conditions.—Of the total population, 21,29,872 were males and 18,91,744 females. This works

162 to 888 females per thousand males of the total against 881 in 1931. The number of married persons was 17,34,733 and of widowed persons 2,94,402. These included 53 married and 25 widowed children of ages between 0 to 5 years.

(F) Distribution of population according to age.—The distribution of population according to the age-groups shows that the percentage of older people to the total population was a little higher in 1941 than it was in 1931. The increase in the age-group from 35-40 upwards was 13.7 per cent. against an increase of 10.3 per cent. for the whole population. The percentage of population in the age-group of 0-15 was 40.1.

The mean age recorded at the census was 23.83 years for males and 22.66 years for females.

212 **(G) Literacy.**—Below is shown the position of the main communities in the State, excluding Gilgit Agency, as regards literacy :—

Above 5 years of age.

Community.	Persons.	Literates.	Percentage.
Muslims ..	26,15,491	1,10,692	4
Hindus ..	7,08,954	1,06,877	15
Sikhs ..	55,815	17,765	32
Buddhists ..	37,153	1,920	5

The following table shows the progress of literacy from 1921 to 1941 :—

Literate per 1,000.

	1921	1931	1941
State ..	26	41	70
Jammu Province ..	27	49	74
Kashmir Province ..	26	35	70
Frontier District (Excluding Gilgit Agency) ..	19	25	31

(H) Cultivated area.—Of the total area of the State, 5.6 per cent. is cultivable and 4.9 per cent. is actually cultivated. The percentage of irrigated area to cultivated area is 35.1 The percentage of gross cultivated area under rice is 19.3; under wheat 19.5; under barley 2.3; under bajra 3.9; under maize 29.6; and under other food crops including pulses 10.7. 311 241

Dialects.—The principal languages spoken in Jammu and Kashmir Provinces are Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri and Pahari. Bhotia and Shina are spoken in Ladakh and Gilgit. Owing to the existence of natural barriers, such as high and vast mountain ranges severing the Indus valley from the rest of the country, Bhotia and Shina languages have remained localized within their territorial boundaries and are not understood in other parts of the country. 197

Land Tenures.—Prior to 1933, land in Kashmir Province and in the Frontier districts was held by ***zamindars*** either in "***Haq-i-assami***" or as Tenants-at-will and in some cases also as Occupancy tenants. Under ***Haq-i-Assami***, all the land was owned by the State, the actual holders or ***assamis*** had the right of occupancy as against the State as long as they paid the dues, but had no right of alienation by sale or mortgage. 423

Transfers were, however, permitted within the municipal limits of Srinagar and in Anantnag, Shopian, Bijbihara, Pampore, Sopore, Baramulla and Muzaffarabad towns.

Tenants-at-will held land subject to the will of the proprietor, who could eject them at any time. In Kashmir, tenants-at-will included a large number of ***zamindars*** who had been found in 1924 to have encroached on huge ***khalsa*** areas and to have brought them under cultivation. Occupancy tenants had the right of occupancy of land under a proprietor or an ***assami***. They could not be ejected without special reasons, nor could rent on the land be altered at the will of the landlord. Their right was hereditary, and could be sold with the permission of the landlord.

Occupancy tenants were of two kinds, ***viz.***, (1) those who held land direct from a land-holder or the State, and (2) those who held land under occupancy tenants of class (1). In Kashmir, occupancy tenants consisted mainly of tenants who held land at the first Settlement,

423 and had since been declared by a competent court to be such. They were granted *assami* rights in subsequent Settlements.

In Ramnagar, Basohli and Mirpur Tehsils of Jammu Province also, almost all lands were owned by the State, but the land-holders were *malguzars*. They enjoyed the right of selling and mortgaging land. In other parts of Jammu Province, some of the lands were held by the Government, and there were numerous occupancy tenants in addition to tenants-at-will. The remaining lands in which the people enjoyed proprietary rights were parcelled out for cultivation to tenants, who had either occupancy rights, or rights of tenants-at-will.

In 1933, His Highness was pleased to grant proprietary rights to *assamis* in Kashmir Province and the Frontier district as well as to occupancy tenants in Jammu Province, in order to create in them a greater sense of self-respect, and self-reliance. The payment of *nazarana* was waived, as a matter of grace. In order, however, to check alienations in favour of non-agricultural classes, the Land Alienation Act and the Right of Prior Purchase Act were enacted, and alienation of land by the land-holder beyond one-fourth of his holding except with the permission of the Wazir Wazarat was prohibited for the first ten years.

No occupancy tenants under the Government exist in Jammu and Kashmir Provinces now. But such tenants exist in the Frontier district, where the *zamindars* were previously allowed to break waste land up to 20 kanals in each individual case. On the recommendation of the Glancy Commission, this limit was removed. Further, lands brought under cultivation prior to S. 1990-91 (October-November 1933) were ordered to be shown as lands held under proprietary rights and lands brought under cultivation subsequent to that date to be shown as lands held under occupancy rights of the cultivators. The *zamindars* of the Frontier district are thus the only occupancy tenants directly under the Government at present.

651 **Settlement.**—The assessment of land revenue, though one of the many functions of the Settlement Department, was perhaps the most important. The standard for fixing revenue in places where the Government did not enjoy

proprietary rights was the same as in the Punjab, namely 651
" half net assets " or half the profits of the proprietor from land cultivated by tenants-at-will. To arrive at the percentage represented by " half net assets," some deductions were made from the gross produce, 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. altogether, on account of customary payments from the common harvest heap before division. This left the divisible produce at about 90 per cent. At the prevailing rent-rate of half the produce, the net profits of the proprietors would be 45 per cent. of the gross produce, which could leave the share of the State at 22½ per cent. Where cash rents were common, which was seldom the case, another set of " half net assets" was obtainable by the simple process of dividing by two the average net cash rent per acre of a given class of land. Where the State held proprietary rights in all land, as in Kashmir, it was in theory entitled to half the gross produce, which it actually took before the first regular Settlement, but this was changed subsequently, and the standard fixed at 30 per cent. of the gross produce.

Record-of-Rights.—The " *Misal-i-Haqqiyat* " or the 423
Record-of-Rights incorporates in a continuous form all 651
facts relating to each holding and field, and these include, among other things, areas, class of soil, source of irrigation, number and kind of trees, rights of holders and tenants, rents, revenue and cesses and statement of special village customs and of rights in irrigation. Details of *jagirs* and other revenue-free grants and genealogical tables of right-holders are also incorporated in the Record-of-Rights. Changes in the Record-of-Rights in respect of revenue or right-holders, are recorded after every four years in what is known as quadrennial or *Charsala Jamabandi*.

Civil Divisions.—For purposes of civil administration, 631
the State is divided into three parts :—

(1) the province of Jammu,
(2) the province of Kashmir, and
(3) the district of Ladakh.

Consequent on the transfer on lease of the Trans-Indus *illaqa* to the Government of India, the Cis-Indus area comprising Tehsil Bunji which was formerly included in the Gilgit district was amalgamated with the Ladakh district during S. 1992-93 (1935-36). It has, however, now been placed under a Revenue Assistant and is included in the province of Kashmir. The heads of the revenue

[651] 631 The heads of the revenue administration in the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir are the two Governors, while the Ladakh district is under a Wazir Wazarat.

Each province is divided into districts called Wazarats and each district is divided into several Tehsils. Some Tehsils also have sub-divisions called Niabats under them. A statement of these divisions is given below :—

Province.	District.	Tehsil.	Niabat.
Jammu	Jammu	1. Jammu.	
		2. Samba.	
		3. Akhnoor.	
		4. Ranbirsinghpura.	
	Mirpur	1. Mirpur	Naushera.
		2. Bhimber.	
		3. Kotli.	
	Udhampur	1. Udhampur.	
		2. Ramban.	
		3. Ramnagar.	
		4. Bhadarwah.	
		5. Kishtwar.	
	Reasi	1. Reasi	Gulabgarh.
		2. Rajouri.	
	Kathua	1. Kathua.	
		2. Jasmergarh.	
		3. Basohli.	
Kashmir	Anantnag	1. Anantnag.	
		2. Kulgam.	
		3. Avantipura.	
		4. Srinagar.	
	Baramulla	1. Baramulla.	
		2. Sripratapsinghpura.	
		3. Uttarmachipura.	Gurez.
			Sopore.

Province.	District.	Tehsil.	Niabat. 631
Muzaffarabad.		1. Muzaffarabad.	
		2. Uri.	
		3. Karnah.	
Astore	..	(Under a Revenue Assistant).	Bunji.
Ladakh.	..	1. Ladakh.	
		2. Kargil.	
		3. Skardu.	

CHAPTER II.—A BRIEF HISTORY.

175 **Past History.**—Kashmir is the only region of India which has a connected history of her own dating from the earliest times. Kalhana began his famous book in Sanskrit verse, the *Rajatarangini* (literally "River of Kings)" in the twel fth century A. D. On account of the paucity of historical material relating to the Hindu period of India as a whole, this book has long attracted the attention of historians—European and Indian. The work was continued after Kalhana by other historians and brought down to the conquest of the Valley by Akbar in 1586. Kashmir was a part of the empire of Asoka. After the commencement of the Christian era, the Valley was invaded by Tartars, and Buddhism became the State religion. In the sixth century A. D., came the white Huns. Hiuen Tsang visited Kashmir in A. D. 629-631. Lf litaditya is the most famous of the later Hindu kings. Ha is said to have subdued many kings in India in a tour ofeconquest and then turned his attention to Central As ia and returned victorious from there by way of Tibet after 1 2 years. It is recorded of him that he was a patron of art and culture and carried out many public works and built many temples. Mahmud of Ghazni attempted to invade Kashmir, but failed to effect entry. Dynastic revolutions followed, and with the propagation of Islam, the Valley passed into the hands of Muslim rulers. The most notable of the Muslim rulers was Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin (1420-70) who is said to have introduced paper-making, sericulture and shawl-manufacture in Kashmir. He was generous and brave and earned the goodwill of the Hindus, who had been persecuted by his predecessor, Sultan Sikandar, known as "*Butshikan*" or Iconoclast. He encouraged letters, fine arts and polytechnics. Akbar conquered Kashmir in 1586. Jahangir and Shah Jahan were very fond of Kashmir, built stately houses there, planted *chinars* and laid out various pleasure gardens round Lake Dal and elsewhere. In 1750 Ahmed Shah Abdali invaded Kashmir and occupied it. The Afghan rule that came in his wake was harsh, and in 1819 a few of the persecuted people called Maharaja Ranjit Singh to their rescue. The Maharaja sent Raja Gulab Singh, the founder of the present ruling dynasty of Jammu and Kashmir State and another trusted

lieutenant in command of his troops. The Afghan Governor was defeated. From 1819 to 1846 Kashmir was under the Sikhs. In 1842, when a rising took place in the province, Raja Gulab Singh was sent to deal with it. He put down the insurrection and after appointing a Governor of his own, left to return, only a few years later as the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. 175

Present Ruling Dynasty.—The present ruling dynasty of the State is an offshoot of the princely house which ruled over Jammu till the annexation of that principality by the Sikh Government of Lahore. What is now the province of Jammu was really a congeries of small principalities. The princes of this territory generally recognized the supremacy of the Rajas of Jammu. Bhimber and Rajouri which were on the Mughal road to Kashmir were more directly under the domination of the Mughal Government until annexed by the Sikhs.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, Raja Ranjit Dev whose capital was at Jammu, achieved great power and welded together most of the principalities round and near Jammu into one kingdom, of which he was the ruler. Soon after his death in 1781, the destinies of his house and country became involved in the political currents which pervaded the Punjab at the time and which culminated in the establishment of the Sikh rule in that country. Jammu and other principalities of the neighbourhood became a part of the Sikh State. The subsequent history of these principalities and their unification is the story of the career of Raja Gulab Singh. He joined Maharaja Ranjit Singh's service about 1812 and so rapidly achieved distinction that he was created Raja of Jammu in 1819. Thereafter Raja Gulab Singh entered upon a policy of consolidating and expanding his power; and annexed, one after the other, the principalities situated between Kashmir Valley and Jammu. He conquered Ladakh and Baltistan between 1835 and 1840. As early as 1831, M. Jocquemont, a French traveller, had written of Raja Gulab Singh: "After Ranjit Singh he is the greatest lord in the Punjab."

At the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, Raja Gulab Singh was one of the most important figures in the Punjab. But the Government of Lahore became weak by internecine quarrels and by factious rivalries. In 1841, the British Army suffered reverses in Afghanistan

175 and Raja Gulab Singh was deputed to help them. It was then that the seeds of future friendship betwen the Dogra potentate and the British power were sown. Early in 1846, Raja Gulab Singh was installed as Prime Minister of the Punjab State. But the Sikhs crossed the Sutlej against his advice and the battle of Subraon went against them. He had now to perform the delicate task of negotiating a treaty. The Treaty of Lahore was signed on the 9th March 1846, and among other things, provided for the independent sovereignty of Raja Gulab Singh in such territories and districts in the hills " as may be made over to the said Raja by separate agreement between himself and the British Government with dependencies thereof, which may have been in the Raja's possession since the time of Maharaja Kharrak Singh." On 16th of March 1846 was signed the Treaty of Amritsar. Under this treaty, the British recognized him as Maharaja.

The Treaty of 1846 transferred Hazara, among other areas, to the Maharaja. But to make his State more compact, he obtained shortly afterwards Mandir, Dadhi, Kathua and Suchetgarh in exchange for Hazara. For similar reasons, the boundary was further altered in 1847. Under the treaty, Poonch had also passed to Maharaja Gulab Singh. He conferred the principality on Raja Jawahir Singh, a son of Raja Dhyan Singh, his brother, with the status of a feudatory. In 1859 it passed to Raja Jawahir Singh's younger brother, Raja Moti Singh, whose descendant is the present *Illaqadar*.

The earliest historical notice of Ladakh is of the Chinese pilgrim, Fa Hian, who visited Ladakh in A. D. 400. In very early times, it owned temporal and spiritual allegiance to Chinese Tibet. About 1687, it came under the nominal sway of the Mughal Emperor, but it was really in 1834 that Ladakh lost its independence for the first time in history. In that year, the arms of Gulab Singh turned towards the eastern frontier, and it was conquered through the heroism of the famous General Wazir Zorawar. In 1841, Wazir Zorawar undertook the conquest of the Central Tibetan province. He actually advanced up the Indus into the district of Manasarowar overrunning the country. A force from Lhassa, however, approached the invading army and on the 12th December, Zorawar was wounded and died on the

battlefield. This changed the course of subsequent events 175
and Gulab Singh's army had to withdraw. Regarding this battle, Alexander Cunningham says in his book on Ladakh (London: W. H. Allen and Co. 1854):—"The Indian soldiers fought under very great disadvantages. The battlefield was upwards of 15,000 feet above the sea and the time mid-winter, when even during the day the temperature never rises above the freezing point and the intense cold of night can only be borne by people well covered with sheep skins and surrounded by fires."

The history of Baltistan is obscure, but its chiefs had made themselves felt as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century, when they overran Ladakh. It seems to have been independent till its annexation by Raja Gulab Singh.

Gilgit was ruled at the beginning of the 19th century by independent Rajas. During the thirty years preceding the advent of the Dogras, several dynastic revolutions took place, in which the chiefs of Yasin, Punial and Nagar took part. In 1841, Gauhar Rahman, the eldest son of the chief of Yasin occupied Gilgit after killing its ruler. At this stage, the Sikh State intervened and sent Syed Nathu Shah to subjugate Gilgit. Syed Nathu Shah succeeded in subjugating the country. After the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846, he transferred his services to Gulab Singh, who entrusted him with the government of Gilgit which he knew so well.

It will thus be seen that Jammu, Kashmir, Poonch, Ladakh, Baltistan and Gilgit had all along been under numerous dynastic rules before the advent of the Dogras. The Jammu and Kashmir State as it exists to-day is, therefore, the creation of Maharaja Gulab Singh. Mr. K. M. Pannikar says in book: Gulab Singh: Founder of Kashmir (London: Martin Hopkinson, 1930):—"In a century barren of historical achievement in India, Gulab Singh stands out as a solitary figure of political eminence.....He is the only ruler in India's long history who could be said to have extended the geographical boundaries of India....No previous Indian ruler, not even Samadra Gupta or Akbar, had ever dreamt of invading Tibet: and though Zorawar, who ventured too far, paid the penalty for his adventure, the Maharaja's forces routed the Tibetan army and extended the border of India to the other side of the Himalayas."

Chapter III.—The First Three Maharajas.

175 **Maharaja Gulab Singh (1846-57).**—Before giving an account of the progress of the State under the Dogra rule, we may pause to consider the condition of Kashmir under the Afghans and the Sikhs. A brief reference has already been made to the period of the Sultans of Kashmir. The rule of the Mughals was on the whole a period of prosperity for Kashmir. Bernier, who accompanied the emperor Aurangzeb to Kashmir, during the early years of his reign, was very well impressed with what he saw. He was struck with the charms of "Cachemire, the Paradise of Indies" and particularly the beauty and grandeur of the mountain glens and flowing waters along the Mughal route and of gardens like Achhabal. In his book, he made special mention of the industrious habits of the people and the huge outturn of shawls, for which the valley was then famous. But in the wake of the Afghan onslaught, followed religious persecution, rapine and devastation. The brief rule of the Sikhs was no better and did not improve the condition of the cultivators in any way. Conditions were unsettled, and the Sikh Governors had neither the time nor the inclination to effect any lasting improvement in the administration. Moorcroft, the first Englishman to visit Kashmir, found in 1824 that everywhere the people were in a most abject condition "subjected to every kind of extortion and oppression." According to him "not one-sixteenth of the cultivable area was under cultivation." The taxation was exorbitant and corruption was universal. Another visitor, Vigne, who came to Kashmir a decade after, draws almost the same picture as Moorcroft and speaks of whole villages thrown out of cultivation.

The Sikh Government took one-half of the *kharif* crop plus four *traks* (1 *trak*=$5\frac{1}{4}$ seers) per *kharwar* (1 *kharwar*=16 *traks*=83 seers). The village officials got in addition about a *trak* per *kharwar*. Besides, *nazarana* and other taxes and *tambal* had to be paid to the Government. About two-thirds of the gross produce was appropriated by the State in one form or the other. The collection was made in kind, and the villages were farmed out. The Government had the monopoly of grain. In such circumstances, pressure had to be exercised on the peasants to keep the land in cultivation. They lived on the margin

of sustenance and their condition was little better than that of serfs. 175

On his assumption of sovereignty, Maharaja Gulab Singh found that there were over 3,000 *jagir* grants in *dharmarth* and numerous other alienations. The last two Sikh Governors had been very lavish in making these grants. Maharaja Gulab Singh instituted an enquiry, which had the effect of setting aside some of the alienations. The Maharaja also did something to alleviate the misery caused by *begar* (a kind of corvee system, that had prevailed from times immemorial). A number of men was determined in each village for *begar* and every man when on *begar* duty was to be paid a *kharwar* of rice per month and given food. Another reform was the rationing of rice in the Valley.

The shawl industry in Kashmir was so important that a Government department had been maintained for long to deal with it. Maharaja Gulab Singh reorganized the department. Before 1833, the duty on shawls was levied at three annas per rupee of value. Afterwards a tax of Rs. 96 per annum per shop was fixed and extended to one thousand shops. Subsequently, the duty was raised to Rs. 120 per shop. The shawl weavers were grossly under-paid. On the 6th June 1847, they struck work; and about 4,000 shawl workers set out for Lahore. The Maharaja promised them redress and recalled them, and in pursuance of this promise, he abolished the system of indenture under which shawl-weavers worked. He further fixed minimum wages for workers, and introduced a system of taxation by which the amount of tax was regulated in accordance with the price of shawls.

Maharaja Gulab Singh was a strong and stern ruler. But as the frontiers of his State were in a disturbed state, most of his energies were spent in consolidating them. He subdued the turbulent tribes on the borders of the State, and established order in his vast territories, which had never been under one ruler before.

In 1851, trouble arose on the Tibetan frontier over the refusal of the *zamindars* of Ladakh to allow full transport to certain trade missions from Tibet. The dispute was, however, settled by an agreement between the representatives of the Maharaja and the Dalai Lama.

In 1856, the Maharaja's health began to fail. At the outbreak of the Mutiny—in 1857, when he was on his

175 death bed, he called his Council and sent a contingent of 2,000 infantry, 200 cavalry, and 6 guns under the command of his son and heir-apparent, Sri Ranbir Singhji. The Maharaja died in August 1857, at the age of 66 before the Mutiny had been finally quelled. For the brave part played by the State forces in putting down the Mutiny, Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who succeeded his father, was offered a *jagir* in Oudh, which he declined, declaring that he had acted as a loyal friend and ally of the British.

Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-85).—Eleven years of Dogra rule had witnessed the gradual establishment of order in the State. But Maharaja Ranbir Singh's reign was not without military activity, as the frontier tribes still gave trouble and several expeditions had to be sent against them, which resulted in the subjugation of Gilgit and the adjacent territories.

After the termination of the Mutiny, the Maharaja turned his attention towards strengthening his position in Gilgit. In 1860, he sent a force under Colonel Devi Singh, which reduced the fort built by Gauhar Rahman, who had just passed away. Gilgit was re-occupied. The forces then advanced towards Yasin and took it. After the reconquest of Gilgit, Raja Isa Bagdur of Punial, who had incurred the wrath of Gauhar Rahman and sought refuge at the Dogra Court, was re-installed in his old principality. At the time of his re-instalment, he acquired the territory of Ishkoman. In 1863, Yasin was reduced by a force led by Colonel Hoshiara. In 1865, disturbances which originated from Hunza, made the occupation of Gilgit difficult again. The ruler of Chitral assisted the insurgents. Reinforcements were sent by the Maharaja and Darel Valley was occupied. The garrison was reestablished at Gilgit. In 1867, Punial was invaded by its enemies from Yasin. But relief was sent from Gilgit and order restored. About this time, the valley of Chaprot was occupied by the Hunza, ruler. In 1877, the then ruler of Nagar occupied Chaprot and Chalt, and from that day these areas were held by the Nagar and Kashmir troops. In 1876, Yasin, Kuh-Ghizr and Ishkoman were under the rule of Mehtar Pahlwan Bahadur, who belonged to the ruling dynasty of Chitral and professed allegiance to the Maharaja of Kashmir. But he proved treacherous, and Aman-ul-Mulk was permitted by the Maharaja's Government to incorporate the whole country. He

partitioned the districts among Governors, who were given the position of paid Governors under the Maharaja after their severance from Chitral in 1895. 175

Nevertheless, Maharaja Ranbir Singh was essentially a man of peace and devoted himself to the carrying out of administrative reforms. Administration was re-organized by the constitution of regular departments. Petition boxes were set up. Many imposts were abolished. The marriage tax was abolished; the tax on shawl manufacturers was reduced. Steps were taken to put down infanticide and kidnapping. Crime and drunkenness were put down with a stern hand. The Maharaja supervised the drilling of soldiers. A large number of schools was opened. A telegraph system and a postal system were established. Attempts were made to introduce a system of revenue assessment. The Maharaja started the cultivation of vines at several places. He placed the industry of sericulture on a firm footing. On the whole, trade increased. But the shawl trade received a very serious set-back after the Franco-German war of 1870. Prior to this, fine shawls made in Kashmir and known as Cashmeres were the fashion in aristocratic societies in Europe and were exported in large numbers to the Continent. 175 439

The following extract from the Administration Report of the Punjab for 1864-65 will be read with interest :—

"The reduction of customs effected by His Highness last year has led to a considerable increase in the trade with the adjacent districts in the British territory. The trade with Sialkote is reported to have increased in value from Rs. 1,35,000 to Rs. 1,71,000 per annum, that with Jullundur and Hoshiarpore to have more than doubled. Chiefly in regard to the items of saccharine produce and native cloth, in Gujrat there is said to have been a general increase in the trade with Kashmir. The export of silk from Jhelum is stated to exhibit a similar increase and the value of shawl, wools and saffron imported to the Kangra district, an increase of Rs 9,000." In 1867, His Highness decided to apply the rate of 5 per cent. charged for goods in transit from the Punjab to Yarkand to all imports from Central Asia to India, of which the bond was not broken in the State territories. In 1870, a trade treaty was concluded with the British Indian Government. Under its terms, His Highness the Maharaja undertook

175 to forgo all duty on the trade between Central Asia and
439 British India, in return for the same concession made by the Indian Government for goods imported into the State through British India.

175 Maharaja Ranbir Singh was a great patron of letters and art. He encouraged research and gathered a good library of Sanskrit and Persian manuscripts.

In 1872, there occurred a fierce clash between the Shia and Sunni Muslims in Kashmir. The disturbances were put down and the Maharaja gave Rs. 3 lakhs to the Shias for relief. The great famine of 1877 followed, when owing to excessive rains, much of the harvest was washed away. The misery of the people became unbearable: whole villages were in ruins, fields were deserted and trade became extinct. The calamity marked the end of the old system. During the last five years of Maharaja Ranbir Singh's reign, the assessment of revenue was revised, and the cart road connecting Rawalpindi with Srinagar was commenced.

[692] In 1872, a mixed court of British and State officials
648 was set up for the decision of civil suits between European
175 British subjects and their servants on the one hand and the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja on the other. Political relations between the State and British India were conducted through the Punjab Government up to 1877, when the Officer on Special Duty was placed directly under the Government of India. In the Afghan War of 1878-80, the Maharaja sent a contingent of troops and artillery to assist the British Government.

175 **Maharaja Pratap Singh (1885-1925).**—Maharaja
648 Ranbir Singhji died in 1885 and was succeeded by his
643 eldest son, Maharaja Pratap Singhji. After the new Maharaja's accession, a British Resident was appointed in place of the Officer on Special Duty. The mixed court appointed in 1872 was abolished, and the Resident and his assistants were invested with powers to dispose of civil suits in which both parties were British subjects, or the defendant was a British subject or an Indian subject of His Majesty. A Council was constituted for the administration of the State with Raja Sir Amar Singh, the Maharaja's younger brother, and two selected officers from the Government of India as members. Raja Sir Amar Singh played a very large part in the administration till his death in 1907. He was keenly interested in the development of

the country's resources and in the expansion of trade. 175
Another brother of the Maharaja, Raja Ram Singh was for 648
several years the Commander-in-Chief of the State forces. 643

In 1877, a British Officer had been stationed as Political Agent at Gilgit. He had been withdrawn in 1881, 175
but in 1889 the Agency was re-established. The Agency 648
comprised the chiefships of Hunza and Nagar and the governorships of Punial, Yasin, Kuh-Ghizr and Ishkoman. Hunza and Nagar, separated from each other by a river, are in the extreme north of the territory. The inhabitants of the former are mostly Maulais and of the latter Shias. In 1885, the Kashmir garrisons at Chaprot and Chalt were attacked. When the British Political Agent, Colonel Durand, visited Hunza and Nagar in 1889, the chiefs made an apparent submission, but they failed to keep the conditions agreed upon. Hostilities broke out, and after some fighting, Hunza and Nagar were occupied by a combined force of the British India and the State troops in 1891. The Chief of Nagar was reinstated by His Highness' Government. But the Chief of Hunza fled to Chinese Turkistan, and his half brother, Safdar Khan was installed in his place.

The Sialkot-Jammu Railway was opened to traffic in 496
1890. The Jhelum Valley Cart Road, 132 miles long, 491
which had been commenced in the time of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, was completed in the early nineties. The part of it between Kohala and Baramulla (98 miles) had been opened in 1889. The road connects Srinagar with Kohala. A bridge at Kohala joins His Highness' territory with British India, and from the bridge runs a 64 miles road through Murree to Rawalpindi. The construction of the Banihal Cart Road is another achievement of the late Maharaja's reign. Its importance lies in the fact that it connects Srinagar, the summer capital of the State with Jammu, the winter capital, which is also a railway station, without passing through British Indian territory. The two routes together with their branch roads form one of the finest systems of mountain roads in the world.

A few words about the old routes to Kashmir appear 487
to be necessary here. The Murree route from Deval to Baramulla consisted of eleven marches. Deval could be reached by cart from Rawalpindi. It was usual to take a boat at Baramulla for Srinagar. But even this short journey took more than 24 hours. Then there was the

487 Pir Panjal route. In the reign of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, visitors generally used this way. It had been the favourite route of the Mughal emperors and nobles, and the remnants of the Mughal *sarais* are still to be met with almost at every halting place. The nearest railway station for this route is Gujrat. The distance from Gujrat to Bhimber, which was about thirty miles, could be covered by cart. From Bhimber, Srinagar could be reached in 12 marches of 10 to 15 miles each. The high Pir Panjal range had to be crossed on this route. Thana Mandi lay at a distance of 70 miles from Bhimber. A traveller could take the Poonch route from Thana Mandi and complete the journey in 8 marches by way of Uri. This was, however, difficult and not much favoured.

491 It will thus be seen that the construction of the two roads connecting the Punjab with Srinagar was no mean achievement. Lakhs of rupees were spent on the *pucca* bridle road to Gilgit. Another bridle road connected Srinagar with Leh in Ladakh. Considerable expenditure was incurred on the maintenance and repairs of these roads, all of which passed through difficult mountainous countries. In 1894, the postal service of the State was amalgamated with the imperial service, and in 1897, His Highness' Government entered into an agreement for exchange of services between the State and the Imperial telegraph systems.

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651 In 1887, His late Highness requisitioned the services of a British Officer from the Government of India for the purpose of land settlement. But the real credit for the settlement must go to Mr. (afterwards Sir) Walter Lawrence, who was appointed Settlement Commissioner in 1889, and who brought great sympathy and understanding to bear on his task. The first settlements in Jammu and Kashmir were completed in seven years. The settlement of Astore and Gilgit was completed in 1894. The main features of Mr. Lawrence's work which had the complete approval of His late Highness and the State Council were :—

(a) The State demand was fixed for 10 years.

(b) As a first step towards substitution of payment in cash for payment in kind, the proportion of the latter was so fixed as to cause the least hardship to the cultivators and maintain the confidence of the city population.

(c) The sepoys who attended at harvest to coerce the cultivators were removed. 651

(d) *Begar* in its more objectionable form was abolished, and the cultivators who had abandoned their lands for fear of being impressed under *begar* were recalled and settled on their lands.

(e) Occupancy rights of *zamindars* in undisputed lands were confirmed.

(f) Careful enquiry was made into the status of privileged holders of land. The special rates were continued for the term of the first Settlement, but were made subject to re-assessment. Lands in excess of the sanctioned area were, however, assessed at the ordinary rates, even in the case of privileged holders.

(g) Waste lands were entered as *khalsa*, but preferential right for acquiring such lands was granted to *assamis*.

(h) Permanent but non-alienable hereditary occupancy rights were granted to those who accepted the first assessment so long as the revenue was paid.

(i) All land was carefully evaluated on the basis of the next produce, previous collections and the possibility of irrigation.

Mr. Lawrence's work was followed after him by a succession of Settlement Officers. By 1912, practically every Tehsil and district directly administered by the Government was settled either for the first time or in revision. The State share of revenue was fixed at 30 per cent. of the gross produce.

Elementary education was provided throughout the State. Two first grade colleges and two technical schools besides nearly 50 secondary schools and over 600 primary schools were established. Two *zenana* Hospitals at Srinagar and Jammu and over 60 dispensaries in the *mufassil* were opened. Municipalities were established to look after the sanitation and water supply of the cities. Several irrigation canals were constructed in both the provinces. The longest of these, the Ranbir Canal, now serves an area of over a lakh of acres. Tanks were constructed in the *kandi illaqa* of Jammu. Electric installations for lighting and supply of power to factories and workshops were erected in Kashmir and at Jammu. A Flood Spill Channel for diverting the waters of the Jhelum at the time of floods was constructed. Dredging 871 743 364 312 377 312

operations were conducted below the town of Baramulla for removal of silt and other barriers. Scientific departments were established. The Co-operative movement was introduced.

The assistance rendered to the British Empire in times of emergency and war may also be briefly mentioned. The brilliant services of the State troops in the Black Mountain, Agror Valley and Tirah expeditions met with grateful appreciation of the British Government. The contribution of the State during the Great War in man power was the highest (31,000) among all Indian States. The cost of maintaining the troops sent over-seas came to Rs. 1,11,00,000. In addition, the State contributed three-fourths of a crore to the war loan. Battle Honours were won by the State forces in several fronts in East Africa and Palestine.

CHAPTER IV.—MODERN JAMMU & KASHMIR—1925-43.

With the accession in September 1925 of His Highness Raj Rajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Shri Maharaja Hari Singhji Bahadur, Inder Mahinder, Sipar-i-Saltanat-i-Inglishia to the throne, a new era in the history of the State begins. His Highness is the great-grandson of Maharaja Gulab Singhji and son of the late General Raja Sir Amar Singhji, younger brother of the late Maharaja. Born in 1895, he received education under a number of qualified European and Indian instructors. In 1908, he joined the Mayo College, Ajmer. After completing the full course of studies there, he received training in the Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun. His late Highness appointed him Commander-in-Chief of State forces in 1915, before he had attained the age of twenty. He took an active part in the training and equipping of the units despatched for service in the Great War and in sending reinforcements to keep them up to the sanctioned war strength. In 1922, he was appointed Senior Member of the then State Council, and a number of reforms were initiated by him in this capacity.

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On the occasion of the *Rajtilak* ceremony, which was performed at Jammu in February 1926, in the presence of distinguished guests including several Ruling Princes, His Highness announced a number of boons. One of the boons conferred on the land-holders the right to cut down and utilize all royal coniferous trees on areas assessed to land revenue; another extended from 3 months to 12 months in the year the right of the villagers to remove dead and fallen timber; and a third bestowed certain rights on village communities with regard to the land of land-holders dying without issue. The most important of the boons was the bestowal of *khalsa* land on village communities which had no *shamlat* (village commons) up to cent. per cent. of their holdings. His Highness also sanctioned on the occasion the extension of technical education to certain localities in both the provinces; the opening of more schools and hospitals; the provision of a special allotment every year for the supply of

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657 drinking water in the *kandi illaqa* ; and the reconstruction of the bridge over the Tawi at Jammu. The concessions then announced have materialized, and the beneficent activities of the Government have increased year after year.

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641 647 During His present Highness' term of office as Senior Member of the then State Council, His late Highness had issued orders to provide for (1) employment of State-subjects only to all ordinary vacancies, and (2) grant of lands for house building and other purposes to State-subjects only ; and a Committee of official and non-official members had been appointed to suggest a definition of the term State-subject for the purpose of these orders. The definition proposed by the Committee was accepted by His Highness, and it protects the children of the soil in the matter of recruitment to Government services and several other privileges against outsiders.

658 A committee had been appointed in 1923 to consider the future requirements of the different departments in technical qualifications and experience, and make proposals for grant of scholarships for training to qualified State-subjects. This committee was reconstituted in 1927 as the Scholarship Selection Board. In recent years, thirty qualified State-subjects selected by the Board have received training in several institutions in Europe and America and British India in Civil Engineering, Architecture and Town Planning, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmaceutics, Horticulture, Sericulture, Forestry, Printing, Law and Public administration ; and most of them are now in Government service. Training, academic and technical, has also been given in Indian institutions to over 275 State-subjects. Lump sum provision has been made in the budget since 1937-38 for grant of loans to persons desirous of prosecuting advanced studies or undergoing advanced or special training in India or abroad and out of this provision, loans of over Rs. 70,000 have been granted so far to a number of State-subjects for training in Forestry, Chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Public Health etc., in England and for Accounts, Law and Post-graduate studies in India.

His Highness also impressed upon the Heads of

His Highness also impressed upon the Heads of 563
Departments the imperative need of providing a fair 647
representation in Government services to communities not adequately represented therein, and since his accession this policy has been adhered to. In his proclamation of the 9th July, 1931, His Highness declared that while in the matter of service, prior consideration is and always shall be given to public interest, and the obligation of maintaining the efficiency of the administration at the highest possible level can never be overlooked, the policy of his Government would be to give adequate representation to all communities in the services, without giving any preponderance to any community. Following the publication of the report of the Glancy Commission referred to below, further steps have been taken to ensure a fair representation in services to the Muslims. The rules for recruitment of services recently sanctioned provide expressly that regard should be had to the securing of adequate representation to the various communities in the State. The rules relating to recruitment to the Gazetted services provide that in making recruitment in the various services, special attention should be paid to the securing of adequate representation to different communities.

There has been considerable improvement in the representation of Muslims in the services* during the last decade. In April 1943, there were 3,989 Muslim officials, including 133 Gazetted officials out of a total strength of 11,762 officials including 478 Gazetted officials in the superior service. This may be compared with the condition in April 1932, when there were 2,052 Muslim officials including 55 Gazetted officials, out of a total strength of 8,683 officials including 355 Gazetted officials. In the inferior service, Muslims numbered 3,841 out of a total strength of 8,196 in April 1943 against 3,542 out of a total strength of 8,360 in April 1932. It will thus be seen that there has been an increase of 94.4 per cent. in the number of Muslims in the superor service during the last 11 years. In the Gazetted ranks, the increase nas been nearly 142 per cent. The Muslims are no doubt still in a minority in the services as a whole, but their proportion is growing every year. In April 1943 they formed 39.23

*The figures given in this paragraph are for the civil departments only.

563 per cent. of the total strength of services. What is more
647 important to note is the fact that out of the total increase of 2,915 in the strength of all services, the share of the Muslims was 2,236 or 76.7 per cent., as against 679 or 23.3 per cent., the share of other communities.

647 In the matter of Government purchases, preference is
441 given to local firms. The Department of Civil Supplies, which has been established to arrange supplies for Government Departments, maintains a list of registered local firms. Preference is also given to locally manufactured goods when available, for use by Government Departments.

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563 Following the outbreak of communal trouble in the
647 State in 1931, His Highness was pleased to appoint a
423 Commission, with Mr. B. J. Glancy of the Political Department of the Government of India (now H. E. Sir B. J. Glancy, Governor of the Punjab) as President and with four non-official representatives of Hindus and Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir Provinces as members to inquire into the grievances, religious and secular, of different communities. The Committee made a number of recommendations, which His Highness was pleased to accept. The more important of these related to :—(1) religious places that had passed into the hands of the Government, (2) recruitment of different communities in Government services, and (3) grant of proprietary rights, accompanied by controlling legislation, in regard to lands of which the ownership was held by the State. As regards the first, Government ordered the restoration of the places to the community which was able to substantiate its claims to them. Regarding the second, minimum qualifications were fixed by which educationally less advanced communities could secure an adequate share in the services. Regarding the third, His Highness not only granted proprietary rights to the *zamindars*, but also waived the condition of payment of *nazarana*. This concession represented in money value an amount of over Rs. 20 lakhs. Recently, this concession has been extended to villages transferred to the State from His Highness' Private Department.

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Another step then taken was the removal of restrictions that existed on the freedom of the press and the platform. The Press laws in the State were brought in line with those of British India. To-day there are in existence in the State over 60 newspapers and periodicals.

After the enquiry into grievances had been completed, a reforms conference with Mr. Glancy as President was held to give effect to His Highness' desire to associate his people with the administration of the State. The result of the recommendations made by the conference and the Franchise Commission under the chairmanship of the late Sir Barjor Dalal, Kt., I. C. S. (Retired), was the establishment in 1934 of the Jammu and Kashmir Praja Sabha. A very low set of franchise qualifications was adopted, and the right of vote was at once given to about 6 per cent. of the population, including a number of women.

The Constitution then introduced permitted the asking of questions, moving of resolutions, introduction of Bills as also discussion of the State Budget. The Sabha consisted of 75 members, over 60 of whom were non-officials, 33 of them being elected. This Constitution remained in force until 1939, when His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur was pleased of his own accord, to sanction further constitutional advance by a proclamation issued on the 11th of February 1939.

The main features of the new constitutional advance were that :—

(a) the elected element in a house of 75 members was raised from 33 to 40 ;

(b) the Sabha was given the right of electing a Deputy President from amongst its non-official members ;

(c) provision was made for the appointment of non-official members as Under Secretaries to work with His Highness' Ministers and ensure closer association between the Government on the one side and the members of the Praja Sabha and the constituencies on the other ;

(d) the Sabha was given the right to vote, except with regard to a few non-votable items, on the demands made by Government for Budget appropriations ; and

(e) the Sabha was given the right of passing all legislation pertaining to taxes, as distinguished from fees and penalties.

[i.e. after an outbreak of communal trouble] in 1931 -- Analyst

642 The Constitution Act subsequently promulgated embodies the provisions of the proclamation of the 11th February, 1939. Its note-worthy features may be summarized as follows :—

645 (1) Subject to His Highness' inherent legislative, executive and judicial powers in relation to the State and his Government, the Council of Ministers, comprising the Prime Minister and such other Ministers of State as His Highness may appoint, is invested with the power of superintendence, direction and control of Civil Administration and Government of the State ;

(2) provision is made for the appointment of an Advocate General ;

646 (3) the legislature of the State is to consist of His Highness and the Praja Sabha, which comprises 75 members, excluding the President who is appointed by His Highness. The members of the Council are *ex-officio* members of the Praja Sabha and of the remaining members, 40 are elected and the rest nominated. Of the nominated members, not more than 8 (excluding members of the Council) are officials. The Praja Sabha has power to make laws for the whole of the State or any part thereof and for all the subjects of His Highness, wherever they may be.

652 Provision is made for laying before the Praja Sabha in
646 respect of every financial year, a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for the year, and so much of the Budget estimate as relates to expenditure not charged to the revenues of the State is to be submitted to the Praja Sabha in the form of demands for grants. The Praja Sabha has the power to assent to or to refuse to assent to any demand or to assent to it subject to a reduction of the amount. The Council, however, has the power to restore the grant refused or reduced by the Praja Sabha, provided it considers that the expenditure is necessary for the carrying on of any department or for the discharge of the Council's responsibility for administration. Besides, His Highness may, in cases of emergency, authorize such expenditure as may in his opinion be necessary for the safety or tranquillity of the State or any part
647 thereof, or for the carrying on of any department.

646 The principal matters reserved from the purview of
[643] the Praja Sabha are :—

(a) His Highness or any member of His Highness' family or the management of His Highness' household;

family or the management of His Highness' household; 642

(b) relations, treaties, conventions or agreements 646 between the State and His Majesty the King Emperor of India or the Government of India or with the Foreign Powers or the Government of any State in India;

(c) matters of frontier policy;

(d) organization, discipline and control of the State Army;

(e) the provisions of the Constitution Act and the rules made thereunder.

The Praja Sabha has constituted Standing Committees [647] for Finance, Industries, Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operation and Education.

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A High Court comprising a Chief Justice and two 692 puisne Judges was established by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur in March 1928. The Judges of the High Court hold office during the pleasure of His Highness. In 1930, in view of the marked improvement in the judicial administration of the State, the jurisdiction exercised by Residency courts in certain categories of civil cases was ceded to the State courts. Almost all the judicial [693] officers in the State are either barristers or graduates in law. Rules similar to those in British India govern the enlistment of pleaders and advocates in the State. Generally speaking, the civil and criminal laws of the State are similar to and modelled upon the British Indian laws. Recently, the jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature has been extended to Poonch and Chenani *Jagirs*. Altogether there are 150 civil and criminal courts in the State. The total number of legal practitioners including advocates practising in all the courts is 319.

As provided by the new Constitution Act, a Judicial Advisory Board was established to advise His Highness in regard to the disposal of judicial cases going up to him. The Board discharges the same functions in the State as are performed by the Privy Council in the case of British India. Last year, the Board consisted of three retired Judges of the High Court of Allahabad.

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The 10th of September 1943 was a red letter day in the history of the administration of justice in the State.

692 On this day, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur was graciously pleased to grant Letters Patent to the High Court of Judicature similar to those of High Courts in British India. This gave the court a status and prestige of its own.

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647 In July 1943, His Highness was pleased to appoint a
657 Commission of Enquiry, under the presidentship of
185 R. B. Ganga Nath, Chief Justice and President Praja Sabha, consisting principally of non-official members of the Praja Sabha and others representing different interests and communities to ascertain whether the existing constitution of the State had worked well and with a view to formulating a policy for the future and the evolution of an organic scheme for the administration of the State. The Commission has also been required to make recommendations to secure (1) the safety, integrity and security of the State, (2) the efficient and progressive character of the administration, (3) the uninterrupted and harmonious progress of the State with the object of drawing all the communities inhabiting its territories closer to one another in the common service of the State, (4) the development of the economic resources of the State and its people leading to a higher and healthier standard of life, (5) the increasing representation of the State-subjects in the higher offices of the State and the adoption of a policy aiming at the association of State-subjects of all denominations with the administration of the State, (6) the strict enforcement of the policy that appointments under the Government shall be reserved for the subjects of the State except where the possession of expert or technical knowledge or experience unavailable within the State, may make it essential to import outsiders for a temporary period only or except where any special reasons may justify the appointment of an outsider to an administrative post for a definite period, and (7) the adoption of effective measures to stamp out corruption in any shape or form from all departments of the State.

The particular attention of the Commission has been drawn to a number of specific matters, mentioned below :—

(1) provision of nursing and medical facilities particularly in the rural areas;

647 (2) improvement of sanitary conditions in the towns
657 of Jammu and Srinagar;
(3) prevention of venereal diseases, specially in
185 Udhampur, Ramnagar and Ramban Tehsils;
(4) provision of water-supply in the entire *kandi* area;
(5) economic rehabilitation of the Frontier districts;
(6) the present position of State industries and their further development;
(7) grant of adequate aid to hereditary State-subjects to establish or promote industries suited to the conditions prevailing in the State territories;
(8) provision for technical, industrial and scientific education;
(9) reforms in the educational system tending to give a practical bias to education in all its stages, primary, secondary and higher, with the object of equipping the youth of the State to earn their livelihood;
(10) taking of practical steps *e. g.*, by the appointment of an Employment Board or any other suitable means to guide and help the youth of the State in securing employment or in adopting profitable careers;
(11) insuring of economic security amongst all classes of people, particularly the peasantry by developing their economic and material strength, securing a better standard of life, improving their health and by fostering co-operative effort directed to their welfare;
(12) investigation into the question of migration of labour from the State into British India and examination of the question whether from the point of view of the people such migration is profitable and deserving of encouragement or whether it is harmful calling for check;
(13) the desirability of stopping the purchase of agricultural and other lands by outsiders either directly, or indirectly through the intervention of the State-subjects;
(14) prevention of illicit traffic in women;
(15) investigation into the question whether the present marriage law is effective or whether it requires amendment;
(16) further intensification of the rural uplift movement;
(17) further measures for the more effective

647 prevention of erosion ;

657 (18) the development of Local Self-Government in cities, towns and the village areas ;

185 (19) preservation and beautification of the country side ;

(20) planned framing of the Budget and apportionment of finance for nation-building activities over a period of years ;

(21) fixing of a suitable ratio between the expenditure on Medical relief, Education and Public Works Departments.

The Commission held its inaugural meeting on the 9th August 1943, when the President read out the following message received from His Highness:—" On this the first day of the sitting of the Commission, I desire to send a personal message of goodwill and encouragement in the arduous task which lies before you. I decided to appoint this Commission and to entrust to you the duty of making a thorough enquiry into matters that affect the well-being of my subjects and of submitting to me a well-considered report containing practical suggestions for the advancement in different spheres of life of the different communities. I shall watch with keen interest the progress of your work. If you work together, not in a narrow and mutually distrustful spirit, but with the fixed resolve to serve the best interests of the State and that loyalty on which I depend, I feel confident that your labours will be fruitful, and add to the moral and material welfare of the inhabitants of this State. I charge you to apply yourselves zealously and wisely to the task that lies before you with a fixed determination to arrive at wise and practical conclusions which would redound to the credit of the State and bring us all greater happiness. Very sincerely and earnestly, I wish you god-speed."

This was followed by a speech from the President in the course of which he said that they were all beholden to His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur for his gracious message. He went on to say : " Luckily, we are working under the aegis of a sovereign to whose heart your happiness, prosperity and progress are very near ; and who, I am assured, is keenly anxious that this Commission should lead to happy results. The terms of reference, I need scarcely remind you, are very wide and they cover

practically the whole of the life of the people in different spheres. I shall make an earnest appeal to you to make a response to the command in the spirit in which it has been issued and to try for yourselves whether co-operation is not more fruitful than mere non-co-operation, when you are called upon not merely to pass resolutions. But to recommend definite proposals for the amelioration of your fellow citizens."

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The status of cultivators of land, whose condition was little better than that of serfs before the introduction of Settlement of land, has been improved considerably. The maximum State share of revenue is fixed at 30 per cent. of the gross produce, and suspensions and remissions are granted from time to time. The term of a Settlement has been extended to 40 years. Long before the establishment of the Praja Sabha, His Highness had studied conditions of life in the interior of the State by extensive tours. He had also introduced an effective method of keeping in touch with the rural population through conferences of the representatives of each Tehsil in Jammu and Kashmir held annually at the headquarters of the Government. This form of consultation with popular representatives gave His Highness a more intimate knowledge of the real needs and requirements of the masses. As a result of the representations made at these conferences and the discussions that followed, attention was directed towards the improvement of means of communication in the villages, improvement of livestock, grant of cultivable land as *nautor* and provision of more facilities for education and medical relief in the villages. The Agriculturists' Relief Act was enacted, several years before the institution of the Praja Sabha, to protect the agriculturists from the extortion of money-lenders who charged high rates of interest, and was the first of a series of legislations for the protection of the agriculturists. It prescribed the maximum rates of interest and empowered the courts to examine the accounts of a loan and to fix instalments for discharging debts on the basis of the paying capacity of the debtor. Special *ailans* were issued declaring agricultural holdings, livestock, agricultural implements, seeds, etc., as non-attachable for redemption of

426 decrees by civil court. About 4,000 co-operative credit societies with a working capital of about Re. 1 crore [646] provide facilities for credit to agriculturists. The Praja 423 Sabha has a good record of progressive laws passed ever since its inception.[1] The Right of Prior Purchase Act has imposed restrictions on the alienation of agricultural lands, and recognized the right of pre-emption among agriculturists in respect of such land. The Land Alienation Act has further protected the interests of the agriculturists, and stopped transfer of agricultural land to non-agriculturists. 426 The agricultural classes have been defined. The Aid to the Agriculturists and Land Improvement Act provides for grants of loans for improvement of land and relief of distress and the repayment of these loans by easy instalments. In special circumstances under this Act, the payment of particular instalments of a loan may be suspended - 651 and even free aid may be granted. The *Kahcharai* Act removed inequalities in the incidence of the *kahcharai* tax, and granted exemption to owners of livestock in respect of particular animals of a given age. Before the enactment of this measure, relief had been granted to owners of livestock by executive action in a number of ways. The *nambardari* cess formerly realized on 423 nomadic animals was remitted. Proprietary rights have been conferred on the *assamis* in Kashmir Province and in the Frontier districts, as well as on occupancy tenants in Jammu Province. But the one concession which has substantially added to the resources of village communities throughout the State is the *Rajtilak* boon already mentioned regarding grant of *khalsa* land to the *zamindars* concerned up to cent. per cent. of their holdings. Several *silans* have been issued to ensure that the boon is properly 313 implemented. Reference has also been made to the extension of rights of the inhabitants of villages in regard to products of forests bordering on these villages. Recently His Highness' Government have further extended these rights on the recommendation of the Forest Enquiry Committee. Millions of cubic feet of timber and fire-wood are every year removed by *zamindars* from the forests free of charge. Forest products are also sold to *zamindars* at concession rates. Forest industries [463] and rearing of cocoons provide employment to tens of thousands in the villages.

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[1] [in 1934 -- Analyst]

The Government have undertaken the execution of a scheme for improvement of livestock in the State on a systematic basis. A five-year scheme under which a large number of bulls of *Dhani* and *Sindhi* breeds are purchased and distributed among well-to-do *zamindars* in selected centres every year has also been sanctioned. Horse and mule breeding activities also have been started on a small scale, but a more comprehensive scheme is under consideration. Special interest has been taken in sheep-breeding, which is so important for the development of the wool industry in the State. Livestock shows are held at different places in the State every year, with a view to encouraging livestock improvement. More veterinary dispensaries are being opened every year. A laboratory has been established recently at Srinagar, where Goat Tissue vaccine is prepared for the treatment of animals.

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The Agriculture Department is doing useful work to improve agricultural conditions in the State. The activities of the Department which were at first confined to Kashmir Province only have been gradually extended to Jammu Province also. Agricultural and Horticultural experimental work and the demonstration of improved methods of cultivation of crops and fruit plants are important features of the Department's work. It also distributes improved seeds, grafted fruit plants, implements and manures, gives technical advice to orchardists and agriculturists and fights the San Jose Scale and other pests. Agricultural training is imparted to sons of *zamindars* at Government Farms. The Department has introduced high yielding varieties of wheat and corns including sugarcorns from the U. S. A., Canada and Russia, and several foreign vegetables and fruits.

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The soils of Kashmir Valley are very fertile and irrigation is easy in areas removed from water. The improved seeds distributed by the Agriculture Department have found favour with the *zamindars*. Hand labour in Kashmir Province has been found to compete favourably with agricultural machinery. In Jammu Province, the use of new iron ploughs has been demonstrated and the *zamindars* have purchased such implements for their farms.

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659 The saffron of Kashmir grown in one important locality
342 in the valley, is very famous. The Department has recently made some successful experiments in growing this saffron in Kishtwar in Jammu Province.

The Department also sends peripatetic parties of gardeners to the villages to demonstrate to the zamindars the operations connected with orchard laying. Demonstrations are given and the people educated regarding the control of pests. An Act for compulsory spraying of fruit plants has been promulgated. Agriculture, fruit,* and flower shows are held annually at several places in the State to arouse the interest of the people in improved methods of agriculture, horticulture and floriculture.

The Department maintains poultry farms in which improved breeds are raised. Eggs and chicks are supplied to zamindars from these farms. His Highness' Government are a member of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Council has provided funds for (1) the San Jose Scale and the Woolly Aphis Research Scheme, (2) the Rice Research Scheme and (3) the Vegetable Seed Production Scheme in the State. A fruit survey scheme has also been sanctioned by the Council.

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657 The establishment of panchayats in the villages of the
[47] State under the Panchayat Act has received a great fillip
623 since 1937 with the creation of a separate Department of Rural Development. To start with the Government
[451] sanctioned a lump sum grant of Rs. 40,000 for execution of improvement works. The grant was raised to Rs. 1,00,000 later. Subsequently the grant of Rs. 40,000 provided for the kandi water supply was transferred to this Department, raising the total to Rs. 1,40,000 in S. 1976-77. In S. 1999 the grant stood at Rs. 2,00,000. The panchayats do not merely decide petty cases. They are engaged in the work of rural reconstruction and are co-operating with the Government in the matter of execution of improvement schemes in rural areas. Besides providing free manual labour for construction of village roads and sinking of wells and similar other works, the panchayats have also made cash contributions for these public utility works. Villagers are also contributing towards the purchase of the community Radio sets, digging of wells,

* [i.e. village councils, usually composed of five members.—Analyst]

paving of village lanes, construction of drains and linking of villages by fair weather roads. In the domain of health and sanitation and anti-epidemic work, *panchayats* have shown especially good results. Cleanliness weeks have been celebrated and houses, compounds, lanes, springs, wells etc., have been systematically cleaned. Latrines and bath rooms have been constructed in a number of villages, thousands of manure and soakage pits have been dug and a large number of drains has been prepared. Cattle pounds have been opened in several *panchayat* areas and vehicle stands and slaughter houses have also been provided. Carefully planned campaigns are being arranged in selected areas with a view to educating the ignorant masses about the causes and prevention of common diseases. A Health and Sanitation campaign in Kashmir Province and an Anti-malaria campaign in Jammu Province have now become regular features of the activities of the Department. The *panchayats* take a prominent part in the distribution of better seeds and poultry to the *zamindars* under the guidance of the Agriculture Department. Extensive work has been carried on by the Rural Development Department in the cause of village uplift. Comprehensive economic surveys have been launched with a view to understanding the causes of the economic, social and cultural backwardness of the rural population. Over 2,700 villages have been surveyed so far.

Among the matters receiving the attention of the Department are the development of decaying village industries and propaganda for adult education. Two schools, one for shoe-making at Neloi and the other for knitting at Jatlan, in Mirpur, are functioning under the guidance of the Department.

The Department has also built tanks, bored deep wells, laid pipes and provided hydrams for water in the *kandi illaqa* of Jammu Province. Experiments in rock boring for drilling wells in the *illaqa* are in hand. During S. 1999, the budget allotment of Rs. 40,000 for supply of drinking water to the *kandi illaqa* was raised to Rs. 75,000. Further, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur was gracious enough to donate Rs. 25,000 for construction of wells in the *illaqa*. Shri Yuvaraj Karan Singhji also donated Rs. 10,000 for the purpose.

657 To insure against food scarcity that had previously
623 threatened the village areas in Kashmir Province, the *panchayats* in Kashmir Province collected in S. 1999, 60,000 *kharwars* of *shali* and maize on *khush-kharid* basis for use in times of scarcity.

With a view to minimizing the migration of unskilled workers from Kashmir Valley to the plains in the winter for work and finding suitable productive work in the State itself for the men who migrate and as near their homes as possible, the Rural Development Department was entrusted with investigating the matter and preparing lists of men who migrate and the kinds of work suited to them. With the help of the *panchayats*, the Department was able to submit the details to the Government within a very short time of a month and a half. On the basis of this information, the Government appointed a committee for devising schemes calculated to provide labour to such labourers. As a result of the recommendations of the committee, Government sanctioned several schemes for providing employment to large numbers of people.

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656 Nor have the interests of the masses of the urban population which include manufacturers and traders, artisans and craftsmen, owners of house-boats and boatmen and skilled and unskilled labourers been lost
658 sight of. Primary education for boys has been made free and compulsory in the cities and important towns. As recommended by the Glancy Commission, the fees previously imposed on visitors to the Mughal Gardens near
651 Srinagar were abolished. Taxes on boat-men have in certain cases been reduced or remitted, and sites for mooring of house-boats have been provided either at
444 cheap rates or free of rent. An industrial exhibition
543 has been held at Srinagar annually since 1929. The exhibition attracts a large number of people including visitors, with the result that not only have there been greater sales, but there has been marked improvement in the variety and the finish of the goods produced. In order to provide assistance in the marketing of goods manufactured in the State, an Industrial Museum and Sales Emporium was opened at Srinagar towards the end of 1941. A similar institution has been started at Jammu also.

end of 1941. A similar institution has been started at Jammu also. The Sericulture industry which is a Government monopoly and the carpet industry which has in recent years received subsidies provide employment for thousands of labourers. The increased industrial activities of the State have opened new avenues for industrial labour.

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The first Municipal Committees established in the State were purely official bodies, financed by Government and consisted of 24 nominated members in the case of Srinagar and 18 in the case of Jammu. The Governors of the respective Provinces functioned as *ex-officio* Presidents. In 1913, the constitution of the Municipal Committees was revised. The Srinagar Municipality was given 8 elected and 16 nominated members, and the Jammu Municipality 6 elected and 12 nominated members. One elected seat in each municipality was specially reserved for traders. In 1921 the right of election of a Vice-President from among the members of the Committee was granted.

The constitution of the Municipal Committees was further revised in 1927-28 and the elected element raised to one-half. In 1936, the franchise qualifications were lowered and brought in line with those prescribed for the Praja Sabha election. The elected element was substantially increased to provide a clear majority. The Municipal Act recently passed provides that unless the Government otherwise direct, the appointed members should not exceed one-fourth of the whole Committee. This Act has also enlarged the scope and powers of the Committees in many respects. A new procedure has been laid down for constituting municipalities and altering units or excluding areas from municipalities, and provision has been made for giving opportunities to the inhabitants of those areas that are proposed to be included in or excluded from the municipal limits to submit their objections within a specified time limit.

To guard against overcrowding in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar, several areas have been notified under the Town Planning Act and schemes for their development are under consideration. The Town

361 Planning Department advises the Town Area Committees with regard to their Town Planning problems. Special surveys for the development of important holiday centres like Sonamarg in Kashmir Province and Sanasar in Jammu Province are being carried out.

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158 Education has made very great advance in recent years. University education is received by over 2,400 pupils including a number of girls, in the colleges maintained by the Government at the capital cities, and is very cheap. The Sri Pratap College, Srinagar, has been split into two separate colleges, *viz.*, an Intermediate College and a Degree College, in order to remove congestion and improve the standard of the teaching. Pre-University education has been practically free. The Compulsory Primary Education Act was passed in 1930 and as stated above, primary education for boys is free and compulsory in cities and important towns. Books are supplied free to boys of primary classes throughout the State on a very generous scale. Secondary education is free, except in a few High Schools in the capital cities and Mirpur town, and even in these schools, only about 33 per cent. of the boys pay fee and the rest are free scholars. Liberal scholarships have been provided to encourage education. In addition to this, special grants are included in the budget every year for scholarships to pupil belonging to educationally backward or poorer communities. Special scholarships have also been ear-marked for students from the Frontier district who read in the high schools or the colleges at Srinagar and for girl students reading in colleges within the State or outside.

Since 1925, the number of pupils in Government and aided educational institutions has increased from 44,601 by about 165 per cent., to over 1,18,000; the number of the institutions from 706 by over 167 per cent. to 1,888 and the expenditure on education from Rs. 10.75 lakhs by over 144 per cent. to Rs. 26.24 lakhs. Although the pace of education has thus been accelerated, much still remains to be done, and His Highness' Government are quite alive to their responsibilities in the matter. Following the publication of the report of the Basic Education Committee (popularly known as the Wardha Committee),

His Highness' Government appointed an Educational Reorganization Committee under the presidentship of Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, Director of Education and an eminent educationist who had served on the Basic Education Committee and with Dr. Zakir Hussain, who was the Chairman of that Committee as one of the members, to examine the suitability and adequacy of the existing system of primary and secondary education in the State and make recommendations for its improvement. The new schemes recommended by the Committee included besides acceleration of the pace of educational expansion at the primary stage, the introduction of Basic education in which craft teaching and book learning are closely integrated. 658

In pursuance of the scheme for the introduction of Basic education, a number of ordinary Primary schools were converted into Basic schools.

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A well-equipped Medical Department is rendering medical aid to the people. In recent years, several qualified doctors were deputed for higher training in different branches of medicine and surgery to British Universities and the medical staff today includes doctors with high specialized and general qualifications. The number of civil hospitals and dispensaries wholly maintained by the Government is 92. Besides, there are 4 Mission hospitals which receive aid from the Government. A grant-in-aid was also sanctioned by the Government in favour of the Kashmir National Hospital and Maternity Home in Srinagar. To supplement the existing arrangements for providing medical relief to the people, the Government have undertaken the appointment of subsidized practitioners in rural areas. Under this scheme, there are at present 70 practitioners practising in rural areas and receiving subsidies from the Government. Recently the construction of 2 new hospitals, one at Srinagar and the other at Jammu, was started. The hospital at Jammu was completed at the close of the last year at a cost of over Rs. 8 lakhs, and opened by His Highness in April 1943. His Highness also opened a well-equipped hospital at Mirpur. The hospital at Srinagar, estimated to cost over 744

744 Rs. 17 lakhs, is in progress. His Highness' Government were among the first in India to set up a special organization for T. B. diseases. The Tuberculosis Department now maintains 5 institutions, 3 in Kashmir and 2 in Jammu, including a well-built and properly staffed Sanatorium at Tangmarg in Kashmir. Special staff is maintained for fighting epidemic diseases. Jammu Province was perennially afflicted with considerable outbreaks of plague in certain areas. An anti-plague scheme was tried in Jammu some years ago and since then this Province has been comparatively free from the disease. The magnitude of work done by the special epidemic staff may be judged from the fact that during the cholera epidemic of 1935, 13,00,000 inoculations were performed in Kashmir Province. This is believed to be the record number of mass inoculations performed anywhere at one time. In August 1941, there was another outbreak of cholera in Kashmir Province, but it was soon brought under control. Special measures to combat malaria in Jammu Province are under consideration. Active measures have been taken to meet the danger of venereal diseases that are particularly prevalent in certain areas in Jammu Province. Special dispensaries have been maintained for the treatment of these diseases. In addition, educational propaganda is being carried on so that enlightenment may lead to the prevention of these diseases. A Committee has been set up to consider the adoption of further measures to check these diseases.

The Medical Department has recently been reorganized with the object of extending the range and quality of medical relief to the people. The staff has been strengthened and medical officers appointed in each district to supervise the medical and health work in the districts concerned.

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491 In a mountainous country like Jammu and Kashmir State, the problem of communications is very important. The two principal roads that link the State with British India are (1) the Jhelum Valley Road and (2) the Banihal Cart Road. Both are metalled. The length of the Jhelum Valley Road is 132 miles, of which about half is

tarred. This road runs from Srinagar to Kohala connecting Kashmir Valley with Murree and Rawalpindi. From mile 111 (Domel), a branch of this road runs towards Ramkot and connects the valley with the Hazara district. There is heavy vehicular traffic on this road which is maintained in a fairly good condition and remains open to traffic throughout the year. 491

The Banihal Cart Road, which has a length of 200 miles, connects Srinagar with Jammu, the winter capital of the State. The road traverses the Banihal Pass which is at an elevation of 9,000 feet from the level of the sea. About 100 miles of this road have been tarred. It is the most important road in this State, as it runs through the heart of Jammu and Kashmir territories to the Jammu (Tawi) railway station. Due to heavy snow-falls, however, a portion of the road generally remains closed during winter months. A heavy snow-plough and a bull grader have been purchased for the clearance of the snow. They have been found very useful in removing the snow quickly and economically when it has not accumulated to a depth of more than 2 feet.

Attention has been given recently to the work of widening of this road at bad corners and removing the curves on it, and thus shortening the distance between Srinagar and Jammu.

The Leh Treaty Road is in point of importance, the third road in the State. It is the main trade route connecting Ladakh and Central Asia with India. This road is metalled up to Ganderbal. From there to Sonamarg, a distance of 38 miles, a fair weather motorable road has been constructed. The rest of the road is a bridle path.

The fourth road is the Bandipur-Gilgit road with a political importance similar to the Leh Treaty Road. It runs over the Burzil pass and is 193 miles in length. Owing to the lease of Gilgit to the Government of India in 1935, the State is now maintaining only 165 miles of this road. It is a bridle road throughout.

Several minor roads have been newly constructed in recent years and interior mountainous parts of the State have been thrown open to traffic to provide better facilities for trade. The Batote-Bhadarwah fair weather road was recently opened to light motor traffic.

The Jammu-Suchetgarh Railway is so far the only railway in the State. But motor lorry services connect [496]

491 all the districts and important towns, except those in the frontier, with one another. Two bridges, one over
[731] the Chenab at Akhnoor and the other over the Tawi at Jammu, have been built at a cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs. The bridge at Akhnoor is believed to have the largest unsupported span (450 ft.) in India. The bridges over the Jhelum between Muzaffarabad and Domel and those over the Kishanganga between Muzaffarabad and Garhi Habibullah, which had been washed away during the flood of 1929 were replaced at a considerable cost. Following this flood, an elaborate scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs was sanctioned for the prevention of floods in future. The bunds of the river Jhelum have been raised at several places, and it is gratifying to note that there has been no major flood in Kashmir during the last 12 years. The moderately heavy flood of September 1941 passed on with no damage to the city. The Ujh River in Jammu Province is, as an experimental measure, being spanned by a reinforced concrete submersible bridge, the foundations of which are so designed as to safeguard against scour in heavy floods. If the experiment succeeds, similar bridges will be constructed on the large sandy streams.

655 Telegraph, telephone and wireless services have also been developed in recent years, and all important places have been linked up. There are two wireless Radio Stations, one at Jammu Cantonment and the other at Naushera. Proposals for establishment of aeronautical services between British India and the State are under
313 consideration. For irrigation purposes, the P. W. D.
657 maintains 10 canals, five in Jammu Province and five in Kashmir Province. Of the latter, one was completed about 13 years ago, while two have been completed recently.

Water supply in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu has been considerably improved and old pipes have been replaced at several places by new ones. In the remote parts of Jammu Province where there is scarcity of water, efforts have been made to supply drinking water by means of tanks, wells and pipes. Where spring water and other natural sources of supply are available, satisfactory arrangements for drinking water have been made. As has been shown elsewhere in this note, great efforts are being made by the Rural Development Depart-

ment for supply of drinking water to the *kandi illaqa* of Jammu Province, and a special allotment is made in the budget for the purpose every year. Tube wells have been constructed at several places, and water supply schemes for a number of localities are under consideration. 657 312

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Reference has already been made to one of the chief industries in the State, *viz.*, the Sericulture industry, which is a Government concern. The silk filature in Srinagar is the largest of its kind in the world. A special quality of raw silk has been produced in Kashmir, which can favourably compete with silk produced anywhere else. It is interesting to note that the rearing of cocoons for silk provides employment for thousands of homes in the villages, exclusive of the labour that finds employment in the factories themselves. Owing to the rise in the price of silk, sericulture has already made a good contribution to the revenue of the State. A scheme for a large expansion of the industry has been taken in hand. A five-year plan for the expansion of the factory at Jammu has already been sanctioned, and it is expected that at the end of five years, the labour employed in the sericulture operations in the factory premises and in cocoon rearing in the province as a whole will show an increase of 150 per cent. High class carpets are manufactured in Kashmir and exported to Europe and America. Owing to the war, however, this industry has suffered a set-back recently. The industry, as stated before, continues to receive a subsidy from the Government. 655 288

A Department of Industries was established in 1923 to develop and foster industries in the State. The chief among the older industries which have become established are a Match Factory, a Santonine Factory, a Tannery, a Pottery Factory and the Shri Karan Singh Woollen Mills. A Government Silk Weaving Factory has been established to produce high class silk fabrics of different kinds. It has recently been developed and expanded to four times its original size to give a further fillip to the silk weaving industry in the State. A Research and Commercial Sheep Breeding Farm with a research and commercial section has been established to develop the sheep breeding 647 655 288 232 654

232 and wool growing industry in the State. For purposes
654 of research work, the Government have granted subsidy to the Farm.

655 Forests which cover about one-eighth of the total area
313 of the State, and Forest industries provide a large field of employment for skilled and unskilled workers, besides yielding a large revenue to the Government. In recent years, the Forest Department has shown particularly good results. The net revenue of the Department for 1942-43 was Rs. 63.46 lakhs, which gives it precedence over other parts of India. The demand for timber grown in the State has increased considerably and owing to war conditions it has brought good prices. Cultivation of pyrethrum has made good progress. The Rosin and Turpentine Factory at Miransahib has done particularly well. The factory has led to the establishment of a number of minor private-owned industries and contributed to the development of Miransahib into what promises to be a new industrial town. The Half-wrought Factory at Baramulla received orders exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for 1942-43.
284 The feasibility of establishing a newsprint paper industry in the State was investigated by Tata Sons Ltd. with whom the Government have entered into an agreement for a comprehensive investigation of industrial possibilities in the State. But owing to the impracticability of importing heavy machinery in the
742 present conditions, the proposition has to wait. A Drug Research Laboratory has been established under the expert guidance of Sir Ram Nath Chopra, its Director, and it is expected that within a few months it will be in a position to meet a part of the requirements of medical
322 institutions in the State. Another noteworthy industry is Kashmir Willows, which besides manufacturing cricket bats has taken in hand the production of other wooden articles of great utility.

471 The establishment of a sugar mill at Miransahib near Jammu, is in hand and the manufacturing operations are expected to start early. The Shri Karan Singh Woollen Mills and the Indianite Factory which are not State-owned, but in which the Government have a substantial interest, have been kept busy executing orders received from outside the State. Well established cottage industries producing woollen fabrics, like *pattoos*, tweeds, blankets, shawls, *namdas*, *gabbas*, papier-mache and

wooden articles, silver-ware, knitted ware, leather and metal articles etc., are making steady progress. Two private joint stock concerns have taken up the manufacture of pearl barley, jams, oats, etc. A number of minerals like Bentonite, Barytes, Sulphur, Borax, Gypsum, Ochres, China clay etc., are being worked. A canning factory has been constructed and a glass factory is under construction. 471

Tata Sons Ltd., inquired into the condition of the existing power installations in the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces, and the measures necessary for making them function satisfactorily. But, as in the case of newsprint paper, the necessary machinery could not be imported to work out this large scheme. Provision has, however, been made for improving the existing installations, particularly in Jammu area, where the demand for power exceeds the capacity of the present installations. The Government continue to have under consideration the establishment of new sources of power to feed the growing industries of the State. 371

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank started in 1938 has already declared a dividend. It has taken over the treasury at Srinagar and will soon be taking over the treasury at Jammu. It has established branches in a number of towns in the two provinces. 652 453

Because of its natural scenery and cheapness of living, Kashmir has long attracted visitors. A Visitors' Bureau has been in existence for the guidance of visitors. Recently His Highness' Government have turned their attention to the development of the tourist traffic. Small Tourist Bureaus have been established at Rawalpindi, Suchetgarh, Jammu, Domel, Pahalgam, Nagin and Ganderbal to assist visitors on the spot and guide them. A Boulevard has been constructed in Srinagar along the banks of the lake at Gagribal. This road has added to the beauty of Srinagar and provided a good healthy place for morning and evening walks. A programme of providing more amenities to tourists, increasing the attractiveness of places of interest and extending the roads to beauty spots which are not easily accessible is being worked out. A hanging garden has been constructed at Gagribal for recreation of the visitors. The two islands, Rup Lank and Sona Lank, in Lake Dal have been improved. Pahalgam is being developed into an ideal hill station. To provide 484

484 greater housing accommodation for travellers, huts have been constructed at a number of places. It is proposed to construct a chain of huts in Jammu. The existing camping grounds have been improved and new ones provided. A cafe has been established at Kokarnag and a tea shop opened at Patni top. Facilities have been provided for anglers. The rules regarding fishing and shooting in the State are liberal and more and more licences are issued every year.

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701 Eight Units of the State Army have been placed, one after the other, at the disposal of the Government of India for active service outside the State. Of these, the two Mountain Batteries and the Artillery Training Centre have been transferred to the Indian Army permanently. The demand for recruits is being met, and the Government of India have raised a large number of recruits for the Indian Army from the State.

652 Against the expenditure of Rs. 8,81,500 incurred by the Government on the Army Department in connection with the measures connected with the war during 1939-40, the expenditure for war purposes in the Army Department rose to Rs. 25,62,000 during 1941-42 and Rs. 22,75,000 during 1942-43. The total Army expenditure in 1941-42 amounted to Rs. 76 lakhs. The pay of all ranks serving in the State Army was recently revised, and the rates of Kit and H. M. Allowances were raised from Rs. 50 and Rs. 15 respectively to Rs. 120 and Rs. 50 respectively.

648 The State forces have distinguished themselves in the battles of Keran (Eretrea) and Damascus (Syria). His Highness presented eighteen completely equipped motor ambulances, and also placed a portion of the Kashmir House, Delhi, at the disposal of the Government of India free of rent for the accommodation of Government offices. Recently, His Highness placed his Lock-heed plane at the disposal of the Government of India for use in connection with the war.

747 His Highness has set up an influential War Aid Committee with Her Highness the Maharani Sahiba as President to raise funds for providing comforts for the troops. His Highness subscribes a sum of Rs. 1,000 per mensem

747 from his Privy Purse towards the aims and objects of the Committee. The rest of the members of His Highness' family contribute Rs. 850 per mensem. In addition to the monthly contributions, His Highness has been making big donations to the funds of the Kashmir War Aid Committee from the savings effected by curtailment of expenditure on a number of ceremonies in connection with His Highness' person. Government servants also contribute voluntarily one per cent. of their monthly gross salaries to the funds of the War Aid Committee. Provincial District and Tehsil War Aid Committees affiliated to the Central Committee, have been formed to collect funds in aid of the war and to disseminate correct information regarding happenings in connection with the war. The total receipts of the War Fund up to the end of June 1943 amounted to Rs. 6,91,586 of which Rs. 5,46,213 have been spent in providing amenities to troops and other activities calculated to contribute towards winning the war. A goodly collection of trinkets was collected and forwarded to Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow for her Silver Trinket Fund by Her Highness the Maharani Sahiba who issued an appeal for trinkets of gold or silver, broken bits of gold or silver ornaments, toys, etc., and old *saris* borders of brocade. Ladies' Working Parties have been organized and the co-operation of boys' and girls' schools and Hospitals as well as of private medical practitioners and medical officers in Government employ has been secured for the purpose of assisting in the production of articles required for the troops at the front. As a result of the labours of Ladies' Working Parties, the War Aid Committee has sent parcels of goods for the use of forces overseas. In addition to knitted woollen garments, gramophones with records and needles, cigarettes and other articles are being sent from time to time.

748 To commemorate the visit to India of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and Madam Chiang, China Day was celebrated throughout the State on the 7th March 1942. On this occasion, a sum of Rs. 20,393-4-0 was collected in voluntary contributions in aid of China War Charities and the War Aid Committee added a sum of Rs. 5,000 to this amount and sent a cheque for Rs. 25,393-4-0 to Madam Chiang.

747 In response to His Excellency the Viceroy's appeal,

747 His Highness 'adopted' 5 Polish refugee children in British India for a period of one year. The War Aid Committee similarly 'adopted' 10 of these children for the same period.

His Highness has also contributed large sums of money from his Privy Purse for particular purposes connected with or arising out of the war.

722 His Highness visited the Middle East in October 1941 and inspected his own as well as other Indian troops there. He broadcast a message from there calling upon the people in this country to put forth further efforts in the war and inspiring them with hope in the ultimate triumph of justice.

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656 435 Long before the regulation of prices of foodstuffs was introduced in many parts of India, His Highness' Government had set up the Food Control Department for the control and distribution of *shali*, the chief staple of the Valley. The arrangement continues to the present day and *shali* is sold to consumers in Srinagar at fixed rates in Government controlled sale centres. Over a year ago, however, the soaring prices of other foodstuffs and the general food situation in the valley, as a whole, caused much anxiety, and His Highness' Government had to adopt several measures to relieve the situation. The measures included the fixation of the maximum sale prices of food-grains, restrictions on the movement of food-grains, restrictions on the export of potatoes, *til*, *sarson*, *alsi* and oil extracted therefrom and the opening of shops in Srinagar and certain towns and villages in the *mufassils*, where the poor classes of people could get grains at fixed rates. Food-grains were made available n deficit areas at low prices, at a considerable loss to the Government. Boards of Food Control, with representatives of different communities and interests, were constituted in both the provinces to deal with questions of policy relating to food-grains. Rationing of other important essentials of life, like fuel and sugar, was introduced. A Department of Supplies was set up.

657 Early in January 1943, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur placed at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to serve as the nucleus of a Fund for

647 alleviating the distress of the poor. The gift rendered it possible for the Government to supply food-grains to the poor at Jammu at the cheapest possible rates, viz., 15 seers of food-grains (12 seers of wheat and 3 seers of rice) per head per month, for Rs. 2-8-0 only, when in the adjoining British territory ordinary wheat was selling at Rs. 9-4-0 per maund and ordinary rice at Rs. 17-4-0 per maund. But, as the quota of wheat and gram fixed by the Government of India was drastically reduced, and the relief from His Highhess' Fund had to be distributed to the poorer classes living in all parts of the State on an equitable basis, the poor relief shops in Jammu City were closed in August last.

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648 His Highness has played an important part in the joint effort concerning the political future of British India and the Indian States. At the first Round Table Conference, His Highness uttered the following memorable words : " As the Allies of Britain, we stand solidly by the British connection. As Indians and loyal to the land of our birth, we stand as solidly as the rest of our countrymen for our land's enjoyment of a position of honour and equality in the British Commonwealth..... ..... Neither England nor India can afford to see this Conference end in failure. We must resolve to succeed. Difficulties shall not be insuperable. We must exercise patience, tact and forbearance and be inspired by mutual understanding and goodwill ; and we must give and take. If we succeed, England no less than India gains. If we fail, India no less than England loses." His Highness kept in touch with the subsequent conferences in London, and other deliberations held from time to time in connection either with the States or with India as a whole. Before the commencement of the talks of Sir Stafford Cripps with Indian leaders towards the end of March last, His Highness issued an historical statement, in the course of which he said that it was the duty of the Princes to show that as patriots, they were desirous that their countrymen should feel themselves the equals of nationals anywhere in the world. His Highness expressed the view that every autonomous unit of a self-governing India

648 will share its fiscal and financial advantages as well as its responsibilities and burdens, and that, therefore, such of the Princes' prerogatives as enable them to ameliorate the lot of their people should remain. His Highness urged that the Princes could not logically object to dealing with a Central Government in India which the Crown might constitute in future, and they had no reason to assume that they would not get a square deal from such a Government.